

I am very disappointed to learn of Chairman Powell's decision not to delay to vote on broadcast ownership, scheduled for June 2.

This issue will have profound implications on the true functioning of democracy in this country. I believe most of the public is unaware of the issue, mostly due to a lack of coverage in the major news media - caused in no small part by the media companies' self-interest in deregulation. This is only one example of the perils of consolidation of media ownership.

As the last two election cycles have demonstrated, it is more and more difficult for candidates to get their message out unless via paid advertising. This has disastrous effects in our society. Governance issues and public policy must be discussed openly and publicly, not through commercial messages.

Public participation in our civil society is at an all-time low. Very low voter turnout is only one indicator. There are many links between the consolidation of media ownership, and the high-jacking of our democracy by corporate interests. This is a very important issue, and should be subject to a much greater amount of public debate, or at the very least, public awareness!

I respectfully urge the FCC to reconsider their actions on this issue, and proceed with caution.

Thank you.